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Help support a farm worker family on strike! A victory for farm workers will be a victory for working men everywhere. Send food or money to United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, Box 54, Rio Grande City, Texas.

FARM WORKER NEWSLETTER No. 5

WE ARE WINNING!

The Proof:

* 41 lettuce pickers from the Lower Valley left E. & S. Farm near Rio Grande City on December 8 to join the strike and came to the union hall to sign authorization cards.

* "Green card" workers from Mexico have been expressing sympathy for the strike in increasing numbers. Recently several dozen of these imported strikebreakers agreed to put on a pro-union demonstration at the entrance to La Casita Farms. The farm management, hearing of their proposed protest, left approximately 90 of its workers stranded at the Roma bridge the morning of Dec. 9 rather than risk a mass walkout.

* Later the same day, La Casita assistant manager Jim Rochester, in the first face-to-face meeting of management and the union, agreed to an election among La Casita workers to see if they wanted the union to represent them. The final decision rests with his brother, farm manager Ray Rochester, and the union has sent Rochester a letter formally requesting such an election.

* Starr County growers recently asked the Labor Department to admit 180 "expert" melon pickers from Mexico for the melon harvest next May and June. Growers repeatedly have made the preposterous claim there are only "30 or 40" union members out on strike. (Union membership has just passed 1900, the majority of whom are as expert at melon picking as you can get.) If there are only 30 or 40 people on strike, why then do the growers need 180 to take their place? Either the growers' math is very poor, or the "30 or 40" who it requires 180 to replace are expert melon pickers indeed!

* Through the help of Father Henry Casso of the Bishops' Committee for the Spanish-Speaking, two investigators from the Federal Government in Washington recently were sent to investigate police brutality, and harassment of strikers by local police and Texas Rangers. Since their visit there have been no more arrests by Texas Rangers. After they left, however, Texas Rangers and local police escorted a small caravan of strikebreakers to the entrance of one of the struck farms. HOW LONG WILL THEY BE ALLOWED TO SERVE AS PRIVATE POLICE FOR THE GROWERS ON TAXPAYERS' MONEY???

* The Thanksgiving caravan was a tremendous success. Over 60 cars and trucks brought 10 tons of food to the strikers, as the conscience of the entire State is being aroused by the brutal and illegal methods of police and Rangers to break the strike. A "Citizens' Committee" of growers and their cronies attempted to sabotage the caravan, advising visiting ministers they would "not be responsible for what might happen" if caravan director Reverend Leo Nieto came to Starr County. But this crude threat only served to rally more support for the caravan. An even bigger Christmas caravan is planned, and already over 100 persons from Austin alone have volunteered. See reverse for info.

* In California, where our union has already won a contract guaranteeing $1.75 an hour to 450 workers at the Schenley Ranch, we have just won two more victories. At the giant Arvin Ranch of the DiGiorgio Corporation, we won a representation election 283 to 199, and at the Goldberg Ranch in Delano workers voted 285 to 38 in favor of the union! Contract negotiations are underway.

Best picket sign: STRIKE IS HOPE. Most original picket sign:

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF AND HER TEXAS RANGERS?

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

¡FELIZ NAVIDAD!

(OVER)